National Weather Service
Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

December 2000

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm

WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ062-067>068 **Iowa - Lafayette - Green**

11	**0800CST 2300CST**	**0**	**0**		**Heavy Snow**

Heavy snow accumulations, accompanied by northeast to north winds gusting to 30 mph, affected parts of southcentral and southwest Wisconsin. This system was the first in a series of winter disturbances that accumulatively would lead to new, monthly snowfall records for December, and new record snow depths at any one time. Generally 8 to 10 inches fell, but an estimated 10.5 inches accumulated in norhteastern Iowa County. Dozens of vehicle accidents resulted due to slippery roads and blowing snow.

Synoptically, a surface low moved from central Colorado Sunday night December 10th, to north of Dallas, TX, by the end of the 10th, to eastcental Illinois by noon CST on the 11th, and then to near Toledo, Ohio by 2100CST. Strong upper level forcing due to a coupled jet structure over Wisconsin, along with strong midlevel differential positive vorticity advection, led to significant upward vertical motions over southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, thus deepening and slowing the surface lowa.

This system produced a heavy band of snow, ranging from 8 to 12 inches, across northeast Iowa, extreme northern Illinois, and southern Wisconsin. As the surface low moved into western Indiana, gusty northeast winds to 30 knots, in the northwest quadrant of the circulation around the low, drew moisture from Lake Michigan. This enhanced the snowfall in the counties adjoining the lake from north of Chicago, to northern Milwaukee county. Snowfall totals in these lakeshore locations were between 12 and 15 inches.

WIZ056>058-063>064-069>070 **Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Dane - Jefferson - Rock - Walworth**

11	**1000CST 2359CST**	**0**	**0**		**Heavy Snow**

Heavy snow, accompanied by northeast to north winds gusting to around 30 mph, affected all of south-central and parts of southeast Wisconsin. This system was the first in a series of winter disturbances that accumulatively would lead to new, monthly snowfall records for December, and new record snow depths at any one time. Accumulations were generally 7 to 10 inches, although a band of 10 to 11 inches was found from northwest Dane County to south-central Columbia County, and across the southern parts of Green, Rock, and Walworth Counties. The greatest reported value was 11.1 inches in Delavan (Walworth Co.). Lesser amounts (7 to 9 inches) were noted in Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Dozens of vehicle accidents resulted due to slippery roads and blowing snow. The fresh snowcover, combined with clear skies during the early morning hours of the 12th, resulted in a new record low of -10 at Janesville (Rock Co.). However, other parts of the Janesville area dropped to -17 and every other location in south-central Wisconsin sunk to the -10 to -15 range for morning lows.

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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ051>052-059>060-065>066-071>072 **Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Washington - Ozaukee - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Racine - Kenosha**

11 1100CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
12 0100CST

Heavy snow, accompanied by northeast to north winds gustingn to around 40 mph, affected all of southeast Wisconsin. This system was the first in a series of winter disturbances that accumulatively would lead to new, monthly snowfall records for December, and new record snow depths at any one time. Accumulations ranged from 6 to 8 inches in Fond du Lac County on up to 14.5 inches in Racine and Kenosha Counties (at Wind Point and the city of Kenosha, respectively). A new calendar day snowfall record was set at Milwaukee's Mitchell Field on the 11th where 13.6 inches fell, breaking the old record of 13.1 inches set back in 1987. This is also the greatest total for any calendar day in December at Milwaukee. Dozens of vehicle accidents were noted due to slippery roads and blowing snow. Other notable snowfall totals were 12 inches in Sheboygan (Sheboygan Co.), an estimated 11 to 11.5 inches in extreme southeast Waukesha County, and an estimated 10 to 10.5 inches in extreme southeast Ozaukee County.

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WIZ046>047-051-056>058-062>064-067>070 **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth**

18 1400CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
2330CST

Heavy snow fell across all of south-central and southeast Wisconsin, adding to what would become record total snowfall amounts for December. Luckily, wind speeds were only 5 to 15 mph, which minimized the blowing and drifting of the snow. Snowfall amounts were geneally 6 to 8 inches, although a band of 9 to 9.5 inches extended from near Lone Rock along the Wisconsin River east across the northern part of Dane County into west-central Dodge County. Middleton (Dane Co.) came in with 9.6 inches. Janesville (Rock Co.), and Wisconsin Dells (Columbia Co.) both measured 7.0 inches, while 8.2 inches was reported from Ft. Atkinson (Jefferson Co.). The 8.2 inches measured at Madison's (Dane Co.), was a new calendar day record for the 18th, breaking the old one of 3.5 inches set back in 1896.

Synoptically, a surface low moved from northern Iowa across northern Illinois to northern Indiana, with an inverted trough of low pressure extending north of the low. Minor jet coupling was noted aloft.

By the end of December, new snowfall or snowdepth records would be set across all of south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Madison registerd 35.0 inches for the month of December (old one was 32.8 inches in 1987), and on December 29th, tied the old snow depth record of 17 inches set back in 1990. The 35.0 inches was 287% of normal and 79% of the average winter snowfall! Other locations had montly totals of 30 to 43 inches (roughly 300 to over 500% of normal), or 80 to 133% of the average winter snowfall! Maximum snowdepths were measured on December 30th, generally ranging from 15 to 25 inches. Monroe (Green Co.) had 31 inches on the ground on the 30th, while Sun Praire (Dane Co.) and Argyle (Lafayette Co.) had 25 inches.

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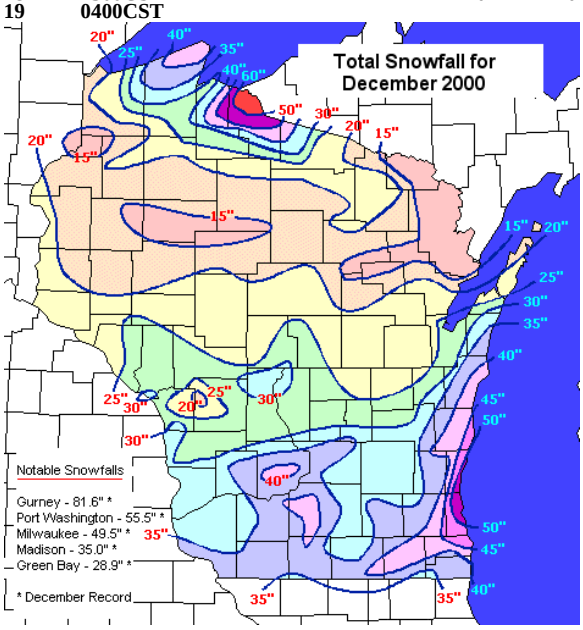
WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ052-059>060-065>066-071>072 **Sheboygan - Washington - Ozaukee - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Racine - Kenosha**

18 1500CST 0 0 Heavy Snow
19 0400CST



Graphic of total snowfall for the month of December, 2000. New monthly records were established at many locations southeast of a line from La Crosse to Green Bay. Gurney (Iron Co.) measured 81.6 inches, and Port Washington had 55.5 inches.

Heavy snow fell across all of south-central and southeast Wisconsin, adding to what would become record total snowfall amounts for December. Luckily, wind speeds were generally 10 to 20 mph, which minimized the blowing and drifting of the snow. Snowfall amounts were geneally 6 to 8 inches, although a band of lake-enhanced amounts of 10 to 14.5 inches was noted from Sheboygan County to Racine County. A location northeast of Milwaukee's Mitchell Field gathered 14.5 inches and Howards Grove (Sheboygan Co.) came in with 14.0 inches. Mitchell Field registered 10.5 inches, while in Racine County, 10.0 inches were measured in Caledonia. The 8.1 inches measured at Mitchell Field was a new calendar day record for the 18th, breaking the old one of 7.1 inches set back in 1929.

Synoptically, a surface low moved from northern Iowa across northern Illinois to northern Indiana, with an inverted trough of low pressure extending north of the low. Minor jet coupling was noted aloft.

By the end of December, new snowfall or snowdepth records would be set across all of south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Milwaukee registerd a whopping 49.5 inches for the month of December (old one was 30.7 inches in 1951), and on December 21st, set a new December snow depth record of 32 inches (old record was 18 inches in 1978). The 49.5 inches was 430% of normal and 105% of the average winter snowfall! Other locations had monthly totals of 30 to 55.5 inches (roughly 250 to 694% of normal), or 65 to 145% of the average winter snowfall! Port Washington (Ozaukee County) was the location with the greatest totals and percentages just mentioned. Maximum snowdepths were measured on December 30th, generally ranging from 15 to 25 inches, although at least 30 inches was on the ground from southern Ozaukee County to northern Kenosha County. Racine had the most with 34 inches on the ground, while other notables were Mitchell Field with 30, Germantown (Washington Co.) with 27, and 20 inches at Waukesha (Waukesha Co.).

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